



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/595,030	12/30/2005	Akira Sato	1826.1141	1551
21171	7590	09/28/2007	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			HWA, SHYUE JIUNN	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2163				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/28/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/595,030	SATO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	James Hwa	2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/30/2005.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-10 are pending in this office action. This action is responsive to Applicant's application filed 12/30/2005.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements, filed on December 30, 2005, has been received and entered into the record. Since the Information Disclosure Statements complies with the provisions of MPEP § 609, the references cited therein have been considered by the examiner. See attached forms PTO-1449.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (US Patent Application No. 2005/0251409 A1, hereinafter "Johnson").

As to claim 1

Johnson teaches

“An information registration device” as definition standards to be able to register the product data items in external data pools such as UCCnet (page 6, paragraph 0152).

“A display unit displaying a screen including a common registration area for registering a plurality of types of different information as unclassified information not classified for each category” as a supplier registration form (see figure 2). In the Input step, the supplier chooses from the various types of input the supplier can import (page 5, paragraph 0122).

Johnson further teaches different aspects of catalog management require different types of approvals and suppliers need to be able to self-author user configurations, access rights and authorization (page 2, paragraph 0026).

“A registration unit registering specified information as the unclassified information when a user performs an operation of specifying arbitrary information on the screen and registering the information in the registration area” as the function provides a central location for creating and maintaining supplier product views, supplier accounts, catalog content approval workflows, and to enter the supplier registration information (page 8, paragraph 0246).

Johnson also teaches the function allows the user to enter the supplier identification information needed to allow a supplier to register in the application (page 8, paragraph 0253).

Johnson teaches what data formatting and definition standards to comply with in order to be able to register the product data items in external data pools (page 6, paragraph 0152).

Johnson further teaches the supplier user profile provides a user full access to all the available functions within the Password Maintenance, Import Items, Add/Enter Item, Edit/Change/Modify Items, Deleted Items, Catalog Navigation, and Edit/Registration Form options of the Master Maintenance Menu page (page 7, paragraph 0216).

As to claim 2

Johnson teaches

"An access unit accessing the plurality of types of information registered as the unclassified information in timing different from a process of said registration unit, wherein said display unit displays a reading screen of the unclassified information, and the access unit classifies the unclassified information for each category, according to a user's instruction" as different aspects of catalog management require different types of approvals and suppliers need to be able to self-author user configurations, access rights and authorization (page 2, paragraph 0026).

Johnson also teaches to maximize control of the presentation of up-to-date, complete and accurate catalog information to customers, suppliers need direct and timely access to their catalog information as well as user friendly tools that allow them to add, find, modify, quality control and delete their product information (page 1, paragraph 0016).

Johnson teaches the invention provides suppliers with a supplier portal comprising a system and method for an ecatalog Supplier Portal comprising tools and direct access they need to self author their catalog information throughout the production lifecycle for rich content data items (page 2, paragraph 0034).

Johnson further teaches the module allows users to print reports, view reports as a display screen, or export report data to a file for use with external applications (page 3, paragraph 0054).

As to claim 3

Johnson teaches

"A first storage unit storing information classified for each category" as how the data moves as the process takes place, including classifying the rationalized data (page 6, paragraph 0173). Moving the approved data from the temporary storage to a final storage area. Selecting data stored in the final storage area to be published to at least one target selected from the group consisting of catalog, data pool, and ERP system (page 6, paragraph 0177 - 0178).

"A second storage unit collectively storing the unclassified information" as storing the data in a temporary storage area to await quality control. Approving the quality of at least some of the data stored in the temporary storage (page 6, paragraph 0175 - 0176).

"A management unit storing the specified information in the second storage unit" as functions included in a preferred embodiment of the system and method to support a

supplier in self-authoring a business process include administrator maintenance, administrator account setup and approval management setup (page 6, paragraph 0179-0182).

As to claim 4

Johnson teaches

“A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for enabling a computer to execute a process” as a media process that will allow the parties to communicate via electronic data transfers (page 1, paragraph 0005).

“Displaying a screen including a common registration area for registering a plurality of types of different information as unclassified information not classified for each category” as a supplier registration form (see figure 2). In the Input step, the supplier chooses from the various types of input the supplier can import (page 5, paragraph 0122).

Johnson further teaches different aspects of catalog management require different types of approvals and suppliers need to be able to self-author user configurations, access rights and authorization (page 2, paragraph 0026).

“Registering specified information as the unclassified information when a user performs an operation of specifying arbitrary information on the screen and registering the information in the registration area” as the function provides a central location for creating and maintaining supplier product views, supplier accounts, catalog content

approval workflows, and to enter the supplier registration information (page 8, paragraph 0246).

Johnson also teaches the function allows the user to enter the supplier identification information needed to allow a supplier to register in the application (page 8, paragraph 0253).

Johnson teaches what data formatting and definition standards to comply with in order to be able to register the product data items in external data pools (page 6, paragraph 0152).

Johnson further teaches the supplier user profile provides a user full access to all the available functions within the Password Maintenance, Import Items, Add/Enter Item, Edit/Change/Modify Items, Deleted Items, Catalog Navigation, and Edit/Registration Form options of the Master Maintenance Menu page (page 7, paragraph 0216).

As to claim 5

Johnson teaches

"The computer registers screen objects including an icon, an Internet address, a text and a file on the screen as the unclassified information" as FIG. 2 illustrates Supplier Registration Profile (page 4, paragraph 0084), objects including home page, HTTP address, email address and order attachments etc. FIG. 3 illustrates upload data file screen.

Johnson further teaches a go to page section, which includes arrow icons that go to the first and last records in the screen (page 11, paragraph 0327; see also element 440 of figure 4).

As to claim 6

Johnson teaches

"When the specified information coincides with already registered information, the computer accepts the specified information by handling the already registered information as an entity and outputs no inquiry message to the user" as the user enters a keyword(s) to find all the classes/items with names that contain the keyword(s) as entered. The Edit/Change/Modify Items page search results (page 12, paragraph 0368; see also figure 6).

Johnson further teaches a Keyword Search Results page is displayed, which lists product categories as well as products matching search criteria. The Item Matches table displayed in the bottom half of the page lists each product matching the search criteria, i.e., the at least one keyword entered by the user (page 14, paragraph 0432; see also figure 12).

As to claim 7

Johnson teaches

"Wherein even when the specified information could not be registered, the computer performs no error indication accompanying an interaction with the user" as a

Supplier Portal may take into consideration the following fields, Supplier ID, SupplierSKU, Cost, and unit of measure of each record to identify the exact record and make the appropriate corrective action. If any of these fields individually or combined do not match that of an existing record then that item gets rejected. The user can download the rejected records, fix them and re-upload them as a new file (page 11, paragraph 0344).

Johnson also teaches Supplier Portal allows the user to classify a product record with errors, but does not allow the user to add a product record with errors to the application (page 10, paragraph 0319).

Johnson further teaches the Short Description Setup page allows the user to decide whether or not the user wants to use the default pattern for creating a short description (i.e., the base attributes listed), or create their own pattern. If they want the default pattern, they select the Skip box (e.g. no error indication) (page 16, paragraph 0460).

As to claim 8

Johnson teaches

"Accessing the plurality of types of information registered as the unclassified information in timing different from the registering the specified information" as different aspects of catalog management require different types of approvals and suppliers need to be able to self-author user configurations, access rights and authorization (page 2, paragraph 0026).

Johnson also teaches to maximize control of the presentation of up-to-date, complete and accurate catalog information to customers, suppliers need direct and timely access to their catalog information as well as user friendly tools that allow them to add, find, modify, quality control and delete their product information (page 1, paragraph 0016).

Johnson further teaches the system and method for a Supplier Portal allows suppliers to leverage immediate access to their product information or a typical e-catalog system, with just a standard web browser. Security rules can limit supplier access to just the product information that pertains to their business (page 2, paragraph 0044).

"Displaying a reading screen of the unclassified information" as if the incoming product information is not in a supported file format, the user selects the Display Excel Template link to display the supported file format template. An Excel spreadsheet with the template to be used for loading the data is displayed. The template contains at least the following data item fields: product id, project id, supplier SKU #, supplier id, supplier name, UPC code, supplier short description (page 10, paragraph 0305).

Johnson further teaches respond to the confirmation message that displays by selecting Yes. A Download Error List spreadsheet is displayed listing each error and the error message (page 10, paragraph 0315).

"Classifying the unclassified information for each category, according to a user' instruction" as suppliers need tools to help them classify product data items, and extract meaningful values for the product attributes (page 2, paragraph 0021).

Johnson also teaches the Classify step highlights the self-authoring options available to the supplier to place the incoming data items into the proper place in the classification tree (page 5, paragraph 0139).

Johnson further teaches auto-recognition process of the Supplier Portal automatically classify each listed product, the user selects the Auto ID option. Using an extensive knowledgebase of sophisticated recognition rules, the auto-recognition process analyzes the description and attribute fields of each product to determine which class a product most likely belongs to. For each product, the Class Determined column displays the class assigned to a product by the Supplier Portal (page 11, paragraph 0330).

As to claim 9

Johnson teaches

"A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for enabling a computer to execute a process" as a media process that will allow the parties to communicate via electronic data transfers (page 1, paragraph 0005).

Johnson further teaches organization of catalog content makes it feasible to quickly manage large quantities of catalog content on an ongoing basis, including enabling a hierarchical structure for grouping products (page 3, paragraph 0048).

"Storing arbitrary information in a first storage unit storing information classified for each category, when a user performs an operation of specifying a category and registering the information" as how the data moves as the process takes place,

including classifying the rationalized data (page 6, paragraph 0173). Moving the approved data from the temporary storage to a final storage area. Selecting data stored in the final storage area to be published to at least one target selected from the group consisting of catalog, data pool, and ERP system (page 6, paragraph 0177 - 0178).

Johnson further teaches delivery of effective catalog content separates content data from layout and allows non-technical, business users to publish catalog content without the involvement of a third-party provider's technical staff (page 3, paragraph 0050).

“Storing specified information in a second storage unit collectively storing unclassified information not classified for each category when a user performs an operation of specifying arbitrary information and registering the information in a common registration area for registering a plurality of types of different information as the unclassified information” as storing the data in a temporary storage area to await quality control. Approving the quality of at least some of the data stored in the temporary storage (page 6, paragraph 0175 - 0176).

Johnson also teaches a supplier registration form (see figure 2). In the Input step, the supplier chooses from the various types of input the supplier can import (page 5, paragraph 0122).

Johnson further teaches different aspects of catalog management require different types of approvals and suppliers need to be able to self-author user configurations, access rights and authorization (page 2, paragraph 0026).

As to claim 10

Johnson teaches

“Evaluating the plurality of types of information registered as the unclassified information in the second storage unit according to an evaluation criterion based on a behavior history of each user” as using a filter function to view a subset of items, by selecting in the top of the screen a field to filter by, selecting an operand, entering filtering criteria, selecting an operator to add additional filtering criteria as needed, and selecting Filter (page 14, paragraph 0415).

Johnson also teaches to view the audit history of the product; the user selects the Show Item History link to see the Item History Page. The audit history is a list that contains at least the following: the operations performed on a product, the date of an operation, the user who performed it, the type of modification, and a description of the modification (page 13, paragraph 0382-0383).

Johnson teaches in the configure step, the supplier determines: who is to have what type of access and authorization rights throughout the process being defined; what user groups are created, who to assign to each group, and what permissions to grant to each group (page 5, paragraph 0128-0129).

Johnson further teaches a Keyword Search Results lists product categories as well as products matching search criteria. The Item Matches table displayed in the bottom half of the page lists each product matching the search criteria, i.e., the at least one keyword entered by the user (page 15, paragraph 0432).

"Selecting information suitable for a specific user from the evaluated unclassified information and providing the information" as to search for a product using the available product categories and subcategories of the catalog, from the bottom half of the Category Selections page, the user selects the category desired. If applicable, its subcategories are displayed, and these can be selected as well (page 15, paragraph 0434).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant' disclosure.

Kogure (US Patent Application No. 2003/0149705 A1).

Fujisawa et al. (US Patent No. 4,868,733).

Sasaki et al. (US Patent Application No. 2005/0216453 A1).

Boucher et al. (US Patent No. 6,018,725 A).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Hwa whose telephone number is 571-270-1285. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 – 5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only, for more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the PAIR system contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JH
9/19/2007

- 9/26/07



Hung Vy
For SPT Dow WONG

James Hwa
Examiner
Art Unit 2163

